House Bill 1053 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Mills of the 25th, Rice of the 51st, Ehrhart of the 36th, Keen of the 179th, Fleming of the 117th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to

- 2 registration and licensing of motor vehicles, so as to define certain terms; to change certain
- 3 provisions relating to commemorative license plates for Georgia organizations, promotional
- 4 agreements, and fees; to repeal and reserve certain provisions regarding special license
- 5 plates; to provide for special license plates promoting beneficial projects and supporting
- 6 worthy agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations, as determined by the General Assembly;
- 7 to provide for issuance, renewal, fees, licensing agreements, applications, dedication of
- 8 revenue, audits, and transfers relative to such special license plates; to provide for related
- 9 matters; to provide for a contingent effective date; to provide for automatic repeal under
- 10 certain circumstances; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

- 13 Chapter 2 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration and
- 14 licensing of motor vehicles, is amended by striking Code Section 40-2-32.1, relating to
- 15 commemorative license plates for Georgia organizations, promotional agreements, and fees,
- and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
- 17 "40-2-32.1.

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- 18 (a) In the event the General Assembly enacts any law approving the sale of
- 19 commemorative license plates recognizing Georgia organizations or institutions, including
- 20 educational institutions, civic associations, and social organizations, the commissioner shall
- approve the form of any such license plates and shall be authorized to enter into any
- agreements with private parties for the purpose of promoting the sale of any such license
- plates.
- 24 (b) Beginning in calendar year 1998, any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor
- vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon

complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor 2 vehicles and upon the payment of a manufacturing fee of \$25.00 in addition to the regular 3 motor vehicle registration fee shall be issued a commemorative license plate pursuant to 4 the enactment of a law by the General Assembly and approval by the commissioner in 5 accordance with subsection (a) of this Code section. Revalidation decals, upon payment 6 of fees required by law and collected by the county tag agent and remitted to the state as 7 provided in Code Section 40-2-34, shall be issued for any such commemorative license 8 plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license plates. 9 (c) Any such agreements for the purpose of promoting the sale of commemorative license 10 plates may authorize the manufacturing fee to be apportioned, as determined by the 11 commissioner, between the organization commemorated by the license plates, the vendor 12 administering the sale and promotion of the license plates, and the State of Georgia All 13 funds derived from the sale of license plates pursuant to this Code section, less a \$1.00

16 **SECTION 2.**

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17 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 40-2-34, relating to reports and remittances

processing fee which shall be granted to county tag offices per plate sold, shall be remitted

18 by tag agents, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

to the state as provided by Code Section 40-2-34."

- 19 "(f) All funds derived from motor vehicle registrations or the sale of any license plates and
- 20 remitted to the state shall be deposited in the general fund of the state treasury unless
- 21 otherwise specifically authorized by the Constitution and provided for in this chapter."
- 22 **SECTION 3.**
- 23 Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-48, relating
- 24 to special license plates promoting the United States Disabled Athletes Fund.
- 25 **SECTION 4.**
- 26 Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-49, relating
- 27 to special license plates promoting the Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program of the
- 28 Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
- 29 **SECTION 5.**
- Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-49.1, relating 30
- 31 to special license plates promoting the Bobwhite Quail Restoration Initiative.

SECTION 6.

2 Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-86.3, relating

- 3 to special license plates commemorating Civil War battlefields and historic sites.
- 4 SECTION 7.
- 5 Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-86.6, relating
- 6 to special license plates promoting conservation and enhancement of trout populations.
- 7 SECTION 8.
- 8 Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-86.13, relating
- 9 to special license plates promoting historic preservation efforts.
- 10 SECTION 9.
- 11 Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-86.15, relating
- 12 to special license plates promoting NASCAR or promoting bicycle safety.
- SECTION 10.
- 14 Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-86.16, relating
- 15 to special license plates honoring families with a member serving in the military.
- SECTION 11.
- 17 Said chapter is further amended by repealing and reserving Code Section 40-2-86.17, relating
- 18 to "Support Georgia Troops" special license plates.
- 19 **SECTION 12.**
- 20 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:
- 21 "40-2-86.18.
- 22 (a)(1) As used in this Code section, the term:
- 23 (A) 'Manufacturing fee' means a \$25.00 fee paid at the time a metal special license
- plate is issued.
- 25 (B) 'Special tag renewal fee' means a \$25.00 fee paid at the time a revalidation decal
- is issued for a special license plate.
- 27 (2) The General Assembly has determined that the issuance of special license plates
- to support an agency or fund or a program beneficial to the people of this state that is
- administered by a nonprofit corporation organized under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26
- of the Internal Revenue Code and dedicating a portion of the funds raised from the sale

of these special license plates is in the best interests of the people of this state. Therefore, the special license plates listed in subsection (n) of this Code section shall be issued by the department beginning on July 1, 2007, if all of the requirements of subsections (b) through (k) of this Code section have been satisfied. The license plates listed in subsection (m) of this Code section shall continue to be issued as long as they continue to meet the requirements of subsections (b), (c), (f), (g), (i), (j), and (k) of this Code section.

- (b) The agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation sponsoring the special license plate, in cooperation with the commissioner, shall design special distinctive license plates appropriate to promote the program benefited by the sale of the special license plate. The special license plates must be of the same size as general issue motor vehicle license plates and shall include a unique design and identifying number, whereby the total number of characters does not exceed six. No two recipients shall receive identically numbered plates. The graphic on the special license plate shall be placed to the left of the alphanumeric characters and shall be no larger than three inches by three inches. The agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation sponsoring the license plate may request the assignment of the first of 100 in a series of license plates upon payment of an additional initial registration fee of \$25.00 for each license plate requested.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, no special license plate shall be produced until such time as the State of Georgia has, through a licensing agreement or otherwise, received such licenses or other permissions as may be required to produce the special license plate. The design of the initial edition of any special license plate, as well as the design of subsequent editions and excepting only any part or parts of the designs owned by others and licensed to the state, shall be owned solely by the State of Georgia for its exclusive use and control, except as authorized by the commissioner. The commissioner may take such steps as may be necessary to give notice of and protect such right, including the copyright or copyrights. However, such steps shall be cumulative of the ownership and exclusive use and control established by this subsection as a matter of law, and no person shall reproduce or otherwise use such design or designs, except as authorized by the commissioner.
 - (d) Beginning on January 1, 2007, any Georgia resident who is the owner of a motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan, upon complying with the motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and upon the payment of the manufacturing fee and the special tag renewal fee in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee shall be able to apply for a special license plate listed in subsection (n) of this Code section. Revalidation decals shall be

issued for special license plates in the same manner as provided for general issue license
 plates.

- 3 (e) The manufacturing fee and the special tag renewal fee derived from the sale of special
- 4 license plates listed in subsection (n) of this Code section shall be apportioned as follows:
- \$1.00 to the county tag agent, \$2.00 to the department, \$12.00 to be deposited into the
- 6 general fund, and \$10.00 to be dedicated to the sponsoring agency, fund, or nonprofit
- 7 corporation as permitted by Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(n) of the Constitution.
- 8 (f) Before the department disburses to the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation funds
- 9 from the sale of special license plates, the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation must
- provide a written statement stating the manner in which such funds shall be utilized. In
- addition, a nonprofit corporation must provide the department with documentation of its
- nonprofit status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the Internal Revenue Code. The
- purposes for which the funds shall be utilized must be the same as those specified in
- subsections (m) and (n) of this Code section authorizing the dedication to the agency, fund,
- or nonprofit corporation of revenue from the sale of special license plates. The agency,
- fund, or nonprofit corporation shall periodically provide to the commissioner an audit of
- the use of the funds or other evidence of use of the funds satisfactory to the commissioner.
- 18 If it is determined that the funds are not being used for the purposes set forth in the
- statement provided by the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation, the department shall
- withhold payment of such funds until such noncompliance issues are resolved.
- 21 (g) An applicant may request a special license plate any time during the applicant's
- registration period. If such a license plate is to replace a current valid license plate, the
- 23 special license plate if issued under subsection (m) of this Code section shall be issued with
- appropriate decals attached upon payment of the manufacturing fee but without payment
- of the special tag renewal fee. However, special license plates issued under subsection (n)
- of this Code section shall be issued with appropriate decals attached upon payment of the
- 27 manufacturing fee and the special tag renewal fee.
- (h) No special license plate authorized pursuant to subsection (n) of this Code section shall
- be issued except upon the receipt by the department of at least 1,000 applications. The
- special license plate shall have an application period of two years after January 1, 2007, for
- 31 payment of the manufacturing fee. After such time if the minimum number of applications
- is not met, the department shall not continue to accept the manufacturing fee, and all fees
- shall be refunded to applicants.
- 34 (i) The department shall not be required to continue to manufacture the special license
- 35 plate if the number of active registrations falls below 500 registrations at any time during
- the period provided for in subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-31. A current registrant

1 may continue to renew such special license plate during his or her annual registration 2 period upon payment of the special tag renewal fee, which fee shall be collected by the 3 county tag agent at the time of collection of other registration fees and shall be remitted to 4 the state as provided in Code Section 40-2-34. The department may continue to issue such 5 special license plates that it has in its inventory to assist in achieving the minimum number 6 of registrations. If the special license plate falls below 500 active registrations at any time 7 during the period provided for in subsection (b) of Code Section 40-2-31, the sponsoring 8 agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation shall be required again to obtain 1,000 applications 9 accompanied by the manufacturing fee to continue to manufacture the special license plate. 10 (j) Special license plates shall be transferred from one vehicle to another vehicle in 11 accordance with the provisions of Code Section 40-2-80. 12 (k) Special license plates shall be issued within 30 days of application once the 13 requirements of this Code section have been met. 14 (1) The commissioner is authorized and directed to establish procedures and promulgate 15 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this Code section.

- 16 (m)(1) The General Assembly has determined that the existing special license plates
 17 supporting the agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations listed in this subsection shall
 18 continue to be issued for the purposes indicated and that all of the funds raised from the
 19 manufacturing fee and the special tag renewal fee, less a \$1.00 fee to be paid to the
 20 county tag agent and a \$2.00 manufacturing or special tag renewal fee to be paid to the
 21 department, shall be disbursed to the agency, fund, or nonprofit corporation indicated in
 22 this subsection.
- (2) A special license plate promoting the United States Disabled Athletes Fund, for the
 support of disabled athletes. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate
 shall be disbursed to the United States Disabled Athletes Fund.
- 26 (3) Special license plates promoting the Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program of the
 27 Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The funds raised by the sale of these special
 28 license plates shall be disbursed to the Nongame Wildlife Conservation and Wildlife
 29 Habitat Acquisition Fund of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the
 30 purposes enumerated in subsection (b) of Code Section 12-3-602. Such license plates
 31 shall not include a space for a county name decal but shall instead bear the legend 'Give
 32 Wildlife a Chance' in lieu of the name of the county of issuance.
- (4) A special license plate commemorating Civil War battlefields and historic sites. The
 funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Civil War
 Commission for the acquisition of Civil War battlefields and associated Civil War

1 historic sites in this state and for the maintenance, protection, and interpretation of the

- 2 same as provided by Ga. L. 1993, p. 1952.
- 3 (5) A special license plate promoting conservation and enhancement of trout populations.
- 4 The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Wildlife
- 5 Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources to supplement trout
- 6 restoration and management programs.
- 7 (6) A special license plate promoting historic preservation efforts. The funds raised by
- 8 the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Department of Natural
- 9 Resources for use by the Historic Preservation Division to fund historic preservation
- programs in the state through the Georgia historic preservation grant program as
- otherwise authorized by law.
- 12 (7) A special license plate promoting bicycle safety. The funds raised by the sale of this
- special license plate shall be disbursed to the Governor's Highway Safety Program
- administered by the Office of Highway Safety in the Department of Public Safety.
- 15 (8) A special license plate honoring families with a member serving in the military. The
- funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Department
- of Veterans Service for use by the National Guard Foundation in carrying out such
- programs and purposes as may be contractually agreed upon by the department and the
- 19 foundation.
- 20 (9) A special license plate promoting 'Support Georgia Troops.' The funds raised by the
- sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Department of Veterans Service
- for use by the National Guard Foundation in carrying out such programs and purposes as
- 23 may be contractually agreed upon by the department and the foundation.
- 24 (10) A special license plate promoting NASCAR. The provisions of paragraph (1) of
- 25 this subsection notwithstanding, from the additional \$25.00 fee charged for the issuance
- and renewal of the NASCAR license plates authorized under this paragraph, \$10.25 shall
- be used by the department for purchasing plates from the supplier of the plates, as
- designated by NASCAR, and royalty costs, and \$14.75 shall be disbursed to the
- Governor's Highway Safety Program administered by the Office of Highway Safety in
- the Department of Public Safety.
- 31 (11) A special license plate supporting the Bobwhite Quail Restoration Initiative. The
- funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Wildlife
- Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources to conduct programs
- designed to enhance the bobwhite quail population in this state. Such programs may
- include the creation of habitat demonstration areas on state managed wildlife lands,
- deducation programs, technical assistance to private landowners in the creation and

1 maintenance of bobwhite quail habitats on their lands, and projects to encourage public 2 support for the license plate and the activities it funds. The Department of Natural 3 Resources may enter into such contractual agreements as may be appropriate to further 4 the objectives of the Bobwhite Quail Restoration Initiative, including entering into 5 contractual agreements whereby private landowners, public agencies, or corporate entities 6 create, preserve, or enhance habitat for bobwhite quail in return for the payment of 7 incentives. Such license plate shall not include a space for a county decal but shall 8 instead bear the legend 'Support Wildlife' in lieu of the name of the county of issuance. 9 (n)(1) The General Assembly has determined that license plates supporting the agencies, 10 funds, or nonprofit corporations listed in this subsection shall be issued for the purposes 11 indicated and with a portion of the revenue being disbursed to the agency, fund, or 12 nonprofit corporation indicated in this subsection. The revenue disbursement for the 13 special license plates in this subsection shall be as described in subsection (e) of this 14 Code section.

(2) A special license plate for the Georgia Center for the Book to support the purchase of books for public libraries in Georgia. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Center for the Book.

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- (3) A special license plate for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to support the work this
 pediatric hospital system does in the State of Georgia. The funds raised by the sale of this
 special license plate shall be disbursed to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.
 - (4) A special license plate for the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home to support the implementation and operation of the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Department of Veterans Service for use in operating the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home.
 - (5) A special license plate for the Georgia Automobile Racing Hall of Fame Association to promote the Georgia Automobile Racing Hall of Fame Association, which is devoted to preserving the history of automobile racing in Georgia. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Georgia Automobile Racing Hall of Fame Association.
- 30 (6) A special license plate for the Alzheimer's Association, Georgia Chapter, to help 31 eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research and to enhance care 32 and support for individuals, their families, and caregivers. The funds raised by the sale 33 of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Alzheimer's Association, Georgia 34 Chapter.

1 (7) A special license plate for the school health and physical education program to help fund school health and physical education programs. The funds raised by the sale of this 2 3 special license plate shall be disbursed to the Department of Education. 4 (8) A special license plate for stroke awareness, treatment, and prevention to support 5 programs aiding stroke victims in Georgia. Such license plate shall not include a space 6 for a county name decal but shall instead bear the legend 'Stroke Awareness' in lieu of the 7 name of the county of issuance. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate 8 shall be disbursed to the Center for Telehealth of the Medical College of Georgia. 9 (9) A special license plate for Project Lifesaver promoting the establishment of a Project 10 Lifesaver or similar type of program by local law enforcement agencies. Project 11 Lifesaver's mission is to use state of the art technology in assisting those who care for 12 victims of Alzheimer's disease and other related mental dysfunction disorders and victims 13 who become lost. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be 14 disbursed to the Department of Public Safety or a nonprofit corporation organized 15 exclusively for the purpose of establishing a Project Lifesaver or similar type of program 16 by local law enforcement agencies. 17 (10) A special license plate for pediatric cancer to raise funds to support the treatment 18 of pediatric cancer. Such license plate shall not include a space for a county name decal 19 but shall instead bear the legend 'Cure Kids' Cancer' in lieu of the name of the county of 20 issuance. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to 21 the Department of Community Health to be deposited in the Indigent Care Trust Fund 22 created by Code Section 31-8-152 to fund pediatric cancer screening and treatment 23 related programs for those children who are medically indigent and may have cancer. (11) A special license plate for the child care industry to promote the child care industry 24 25 by encouraging higher educational standards and providing for professional camaraderie 26 for child care providers. Such license plate shall not include a space for a county name 27 decal but shall instead bear the legend 'Support Improved Child Care' in lieu of the name 28 of the county of issuance. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall 29 be disbursed to the Minority Alliance for Child Care Development Advocates, Inc., for 30 the development of programs to help improve child care. 31 (12) A special license plate to display the motto, 'In God We Trust.' The funds raised by

32 the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Boy Scouts of America for

the development of scouting programs.

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(13) A special license plate for child abuse prevention. Such license plate shall not include a space for a county name decal but shall instead bear the legend 'Prevent Child Abuse' in lieu of the name of the county of issuance. The funds raised by the sale of this

special license plate shall be disbursed to the Foster Family Foundation of Georgia for

- 2 the development of programs to help victims of child abuse.
- 3 (14) A special license plate for the Thanks Mom and Dad Fund. The funds raised by the
- 4 sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Department of Human
- Resources to address the key needs of the state's older population or a nonprofit
- 6 corporation organized to serve the needs of the state's older population.
- 7 (15) A special license plate for pediatric cancer research. The funds raised by the sale
- 8 of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Joanna McAfee Childhood Cancer
- 9 Foundation for support of pediatric cancer research.
- 10 (16) A special license plate for supporting beautification projects in Cobb County. The
- funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to Keep Cobb
- Beautiful, Inc., for support of beautification projects in Cobb County.
- 13 (17) A special license plate for the AIDS Survival Project. The funds raised by the sale
- of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the AIDS Survival Project which is
- 15 committed to providing people living with HIV the information and support they need to
- live healthy and productive lives.
- 17 (18) A special license endorsing 'Support Our Troops.' The funds raised by the sale of
- this special license plate shall be disbursed to Georgia Support Our Troops, Inc.
- 19 (19) A special license plate for the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The funds raised by
- the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to Georgia Sons of Confederate
- Veterans.
- 22 (20) A special license plate for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as 'Lou
- Gehrig's disease,' to support research and education on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The
- funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the ALS
- Association of Georgia.
- 26 (21) A special license plate for foster parents to support programs for foster parents in
- Georgia. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to
- The Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Georgia, Inc., for support of foster parents
- in Georgia.
- 30 (22) A special license plate for the Atlanta Braves Foundation to assist the charities
- 31 supported by the foundation. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate
- shall be disbursed to the Department of Community Affairs or such other public agency
- or nonprofit corporation as may be designated.
- 34 (23) A special license plate for the Atlanta Falcons Foundation to assist the charities
- supported by the foundation. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate

shall be disbursed to the Department of Community Affairs or such other public agency

- 2 or nonprofit corporation as may be designated.
- 3 (24) A special license plate for supporting beautification projects in Georgia. The funds
- 4 raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to Keep Georgia
- 5 Beautiful Foundation, Inc., for support of beautification projects in Georgia.
- 6 (25) A special license plate displaying the logo of Choose Life, Inc. The words 'Choose
- 7 Life' must appear at the bottom. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate
- 8 shall be disbursed to Choose Life of Georgia, Inc., to be distributed among nonprofit
- 9 corporations in Georgia that counsel women to consider adoption.
- 10 (26) A special license plate supporting education on the maritime history of Georgia's
- 11 coast. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to The
- Georgia Maritime Foundation, Inc., for use in programs supporting education on the
- maritime history of Georgia.
- 14 (27) A special license plate supporting programs for persons with brain-related disorders
- and disabilities. The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be
- disbursed to Pilot International, for support of programs for persons with brain-related
- disorders in Georgia.
- 18 (28) A special license plate supporting agriculture in Georgia. The funds raised by the
- sale of this special license plate shall be evenly split between Georgia 4-H and the
- 20 Georgia Association of Future Farmers of America to fund projects promoting agriculture
- in Georgia.
- 22 (29) A special license plate promoting the Georgia equine industry. The funds raised by
- 23 the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the Agricultural Commodity
- 24 Commission for Equines.
- 25 (30) A special license plate promoting African American history and tourism in Georgia.
- The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to
- organizations dedicated to the preservation of African American history in Georgia.
- 28 (31) A special license plate honoring veterans who have been awarded the Bronze Star.
- The funds raised by the sale of this special license plate shall be disbursed to the National
- 30 Guard Family Foundation."
- 31 SECTION 13.
- 32 (a) This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2007, except as otherwise provided in
- 33 subsection (b) of this section.
- 34 (b) If an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia authorizing the dedication
- of revenue from sales of special license plates to agencies, funds, or nonprofit corporations

1 designated by the General Assembly is not ratified at the general election in 2006, this Act

- 2 shall be repealed in its entirety on January 1, 2007, and no such motor vehicle license plates
- 3 shall be issued pursuant to this Act.

4 SECTION 14.

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.